

(c) the reasons for occurrence of same or the other problem and possibility of occurrence of accidents in Bina-Vidisha section;

(d) the details of the last accident that occurred on this section and the gravity of that accident; and

(e) the action taken by the Central Railway in order to improve the position of rail lines in this section?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Only one case of suspected removal of fish plates occurred in Bina-Vidisha Section in Madhya Pradesh during the last four months.

(b) to (d) On 16.6.97 at about 1.35 hrs. engine and 13 coaches of train No. 2723Dn. Andhra Pradesh Express, derailed at K.M.Mo. 953/2-14 between Mandi Bamora and Kalhar Stations in Bina-Vidisha Section resulting in injury to 13 passengers. Civil Police, Pathari has registered a case on Crime No. 55/97 u/s 150 Railway Act and u/s 337 IPC on 16.6.97. The case is under investigation.

(e) A drive has been launched on Central Railway for welding of fish plated joint in a welded territory.

Natural Calamities

3530. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the parts of the country which were hit by the earthquake and where incidents of other natural calamities occurred in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far;

(b) the extent of damage caused by these earthquakes and other natural calamities along with the nature of damage suffered; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided to compensate the victims of earthquakes in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The State Governments have reported the position for the year 1996-97 as follows:

(i) Heavy rains and floods affected parts of 21 States (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim) and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(ii) Cyclones affected the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(iii) Parts of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra were affected by drought.

The information in respect of 1997-98, so far, has been reported as follows :

(i) Parts of 13 States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab) have been affected by heavy rains and floods.

(ii) Parts of 5 states (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh) were affected by hailstorms.

(iii) Jabalpur and adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh, Parts of Himachal Pradesh and North East have been affected by moderate earthquakes.

(b) A Statement indicating the extent of damage due to various natural calamities during 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far, is given below :

Sl. No.	Damage	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Loss of Human lives	3789	844
2.	Loss of Animals (in lakhs)	2.06	0.15
3.	Population affected (in lakhs)	550.00	212.00
4.	Houses/Huts damaged (in lakhs)	23.68	4.40
5.	Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares)	130.00	27.89

(c) Government of India has released Rs. 40.42 crores to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 as the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. Rs. 45.26 crores were also released from the National Fund for Calamity Relief for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of the earthquake of May, 1997.

Reserved Posts

3531. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments made in the departments/undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the post-wise number of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes among them;

(c) whether some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Tribes have been lying vacant in the departments/undertakings under his Ministry at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof, post-wise;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government to fill up the said reserved posts;